

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1

SUBJECT Details of 17 Jun 53 Riot, Orlova/Other Protests against
Czechoslovak Currency Reform

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

25X1

DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

DATE DISTR. 25 Jan 1954

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES. WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793
AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED, ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELA-
TION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS
PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS REPORT IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Q: Were there open expressions of dissatisfaction expressed by individuals after the
reform announcement - 30 May 53?

A: "The currency reform infuriated the housewives the most. They did not want their
husbands to go to work. Plenty of men did not report to work. The Orlova
Odborova Rada (County Committee of the Communist Trade Union) issued an order on
posters for people to return to work; otherwise they would be arrested as saboteurs
of the Five-Year Economic Program. The workers who had missed six shifts were
called out, under a special law, to join PTP battalions of the regular Czechoslovak
Army. (These PTP battalions are composed of 'non-reliable' citizens, not equipped
with weapons, who are obliged to work in the mines, in army uniform, under
military law for three-five years or more. These PTP battalions consist of men of
all ages, 20-60.)"

2. Q: Who gave voice to these expressions and from what social classes did they come?

A: "The peasants made no protests and showed no marked reactions toward the currency
reform. The principal dissatisfied elements were miners, factory workers and
minor clerks. The administrative officials of the coal mine [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], including the engineers and foremen, do not receive their wages
if the pit does not fulfill its quotas for the Five-Year plan, but the miners and
ordinary workers do. I know of a mining engineer and of many foremen who missed
their salary for the month [date not clear; May?]. At the Dukla Pit near Moravska
Ostrava, especially in the power plants there, many clerks and technical officers

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

DISTRIBUTION	STATE	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	FBI	ORR EV		
--------------	-------	------	------	-----	-----	--------	--	--

This report is for the use within the USA of the intelligence components of the Departments or
Agencies indicated above. It is not to be transmitted overseas without the concurrence of the
originating Agency. Approved For Release 2003/09/29 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000500360246-7

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1
25X1

received no salary during that month -- but the ordinary workers did."

3. Q: Were known Communists among those who openly opposed the reform?

A: "I saw plenty of CP members who were dissatisfied with the currency reform. For example, the members of the workers' militia at the Dukla Pit, who received only 300 Crowns, changed at the rate of 1 : 5, failed to report at work for two days. The Communist housewives opposed the reform because they couldn't buy unlimited amounts of sugar, only 1 kg each. The shopkeepers were required to register the names and addresses of all persons who asked for more than 1 kg of sugar or other food items. These persons were later checked by a special commission from the local Soviet (MNV)."

4. Q: Were there demonstrations or strikes prior to the riots reported on 6 and 7 Jun 53 in Moravska Ostrava?

A: "I know of no demonstrations other than those in the main square at Orlova, when soldiers marched on a mob of 5000-10,000 persons massed before the local Soviet of Orlova. The soldiers stopped marching toward the rioters when the people shouted the slogan: 'Armada jde vady s lidem' - 'The army goes always with the people!'"

5. Q: What was the cause of the riot?

A: "The immediate cause of the riot of 7 Jun 53 was the activity of three male workers and two women, who were made responsible for the riot. Their arrest was announced later on posters issued by the Krajska Odborova Rada at Moravska Ostrava."

6. Q: What time of day did the riots start?

A: "The riots started at 9:30 AM and lasted until 12:00 PM on 7 Jun 53. Then the rioters returned home voluntarily. The riot was not organized. The five persons arrested had made very little effort to organize it."

7. Q:

A:

8. Q:

A:

9. Q: How did the five citizens 'cause' the riots?

A: "That I cannot answer. I only know about their part in the riots from the posters of the Krajska Odborova Rada. They were the spokesmen for the rioters."

10. Q: At what point in the rioting were they arrested?

A: "The five persons were arrested on the second day following the riots. One of the three men was a former constable (cetnik)."

11. Q: What was the effect of their arrest?

A: "Everybody expected that somebody would have to be made responsible for the riots. Therefore, the workers were not surprised at the arrest."

12. Q: Were the participants in the riots factory workers, or did other groups join in?

A: "Many social groups seemed to be present: mostly miners, workers, housewives but even some CP members."

13. Q: Did known Communists participate in the rioting?

A: "Yes."

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

25X
25X1

14. Q: What did the rioters do besides march through the streets?

A: "The rioters shouted, 'We don't like the new president, Zapotocky, and his currency reform!' They stood at least three hours in front of the MNV of Orlova waiting for something to happen."

15. Q: What other methods of protest did the workers use besides rioting?

A: "I know that there was a strike on 8 and 9 Jun 53 at the Zapotocky coal pit and also at the Zofia coal pit. The miners did not report to work."

16. Q: Was there any violence in these other protests?

A: "Violences were reported from the Zapotocky Pit. The strikers and the strike-breakers fought each other. The workers' militia was the only force used against the strikers. There were many injuries and one man was killed."

- end -

761.126 27M
111.61 27M
135.24 27M
764.41 27M

CONFIDENTIAL

25X